

Injury Prevention Program

October 2010

*Injuries are
the leading
cause of
death for
Montanans
age 1-44*

Injuries are preventable

Our mission is to reduce unintentional injury and death among Montanans. We do this by:

- Collecting, analyzing, and distributing data on unintentional injury.
- Developing and expanding injury prevention capacity at the state, regional and local level.
- Implementing and evaluating effective prevention programs and policy.
- Providing tools, technical support and information to others.

Why our work is important

- **Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among 1 to 44 year olds in Montana.**
 - Montana's unintentional fatal injury rate is 40% higher than the national average and we lead the states with one of the highest rates.
 - Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death in Montana, followed by falls and unintentional poisoning.
 - Montana has the 2nd highest rate of traumatic brain injury, often a result from motor vehicle crashes and falls.
- **Injuries are not “accidents”.** They are predictable and preventable.
- **Injuries are expensive.** Healthcare costs alone for treating serious injury is staggering but consider an average of 26 years of potential life is lost for every Montana death due to unintentional injury. The result is lost lives, but also lost income to families and communities.

*There are an average of 530 deaths from
unintentional injury each year in Montana*

How we serve people in Montana

- We collect and analyze data and provide reports on injury-related topics.
- We work to increase seat belt use among Montana motor vehicle occupants, targeting high risk populations by collaborating with other State and local agencies and organizations.
- We are coordinating the implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention and Refer to Treatment (SBIRT) into Montana healthcare facilities to facilitate behavior change among individuals with high risk substance use.
- We are piloting Stepping On, an evidence-based fall prevention program for older adults in three communities in Montana.
- We collaborate with other State agencies and organizations that conduct injury prevention and intervention programs. Examples include:
 - Montana Department of Transportation Comprehensive Highway Traffic Safety annual planning.
 - Governors Advisory on Traumatic Brain Injury & Brain Injury Association of Montana through joint data analysis and collaboration with promoting helmet use, seat belt use and preventing falls among older adults.
 - State Trauma Care Committee and Regional Trauma Advisory Committees through trauma system development that includes primary prevention for injury.
 - Billings Area Indian Health Service Injury Prevention through resource sharing and networking.
 - Attorney General's Invincible Epidemic / Operation Medicine Cabinet campaign to reduce prescription drug abuse by jointing collecting and analyzing data and promoting drug take back events.
 - Work Safe Montana through collaborating on opportunities to reduce the high rate of occupational injury in Montana.

Our major accomplishments

Specific Accomplishments include:

- A Burden of Injury Report 2010 was developed and is available at www.dphhs.mt.gov/ems
- A fall prevention program has been initiated and is currently being evaluated for expansion into more communities throughout Montana.
- Thirteen hospitals and one student health clinic are currently implementing SBIRT into the emergency and/or in-patient setting.
- A statewide injury and fall prevention workgroup has been established to help guide the Injury Prevention Program's priorities and activities.

For more information

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